

**PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: M. Zung, et al.

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FILED: September 11, 2003

TITLE: ARTICULATING SUTURING
DEVICE AND METHOD

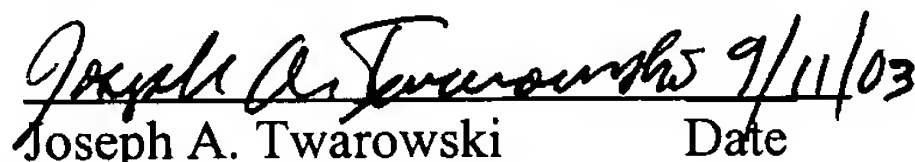
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 6771USP4

Group Art No.: (not yet assigned)

Date of Deposit: September 11, 2003

Examiner: (not yet assigned)

 9/11/03
Joseph A. Twarowski Date

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR A UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am an original and first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled ARTICULATING SUTURING DEVICE AND METHOD, the specification of which is enclosed herewith.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-mentioned specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge a duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

Claim to benefit of foreign application(s) as follows:

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119 for the following foreign applications for patent or inventors certificate.

NONE

The following foreign applications for patent or inventors certificate have a filing date earlier than the filing date of the applications identified above.

NONE

Claim to benefit of earlier U.S. application(s) as follows:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States Provisional application(s) listed below:

NONE

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of the following earlier-filed United States patent applications:

Attorney Docket No.: 6771USP3, filed August 29, 2003; Status: Pending
USSN 10/357,984, filed February 4, 2003; Status: Pending
USSN 10/152,272, filed May 20, 2002; Status: Pending
USSN 09/651,344, filed August 29, 2000; Status: Pending
USSN 09/262,402, filed March 4, 1999; Status: Issued

Insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior U.S. applications in the manner required by 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, I acknowledge a duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 which came into existence between the filing date(s) of the prior applications and the national or PCT filing date of this application.

I hereby appoint the following Attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and any continuation or divisional applications based hereon, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Regina M. Anderson, Reg. No. 35,820
Cheryl L. Becker, Reg. No. 35,441
Thomas D. Brainard, Reg. No. 32,459
Dianne Casuto, Reg. No. 40,943
Portia Chen, Reg. No. 44,075
Patricia Coleman James, Reg. No. 37,155
John D. Conway, Reg. No. 39,150
Johanna M. Corbin, Reg. No. 51,582
Michael R. Crabb, Reg. No. 37,298
Steven R. Crowley, Reg. No. 31,604
Andreas M. Danckers, Reg. No. 32,652
B.Gregory Donner, Reg. No. 34,580
Kalim S. Fuzail, Reg. No. 45,805
Mimi C. Goller, Reg. No. 39,046
William E. Murray, Reg. No. 30,303
Gayle B. O'Brien, Reg. No. 48,812

Nickki L. Parlett, Reg. No. 44,996
Lawrence S. Pope, Reg. No. 26,791
Nicholas A. Poulos, Reg. No. 30,209
David J. Schodin, Reg. No. 28,128
Christopher P. Rogers, Reg. No. 36,334
Gregory W. Steele, Reg. No. 33,796
Joseph A. Twarowski, Reg. No. 42,191
Beth A. Vrioni, Reg. No. 39,869
Michael J. Ward, Reg. No. 37,960
Allen W. Wark, Reg. No. 30,503
David L. Weinstein, Reg. No. 28,128
Steven F. Weinstock, Reg. No. 30,117
Brian R. Woodworth, Reg. No. 33,137
Paul D. Yasger, Reg. No. 37,477
Kenneth Zwicker, Reg. No. 43,310

Send Correspondence to:

Steven F. Weinstock
D-377/AP6A
Abbott Laboratories
100 Abbott Park Road
Abbott Park, IL 60064-6008

Direct telephone calls to:

Joseph A. Twarowski
(650) 474-3326

Name: (first, middle, last): Michael Zung
Post Office Address: 5791 Chambertin Drive, San Jose, CA 95118
Residence: San Jose, CA 95118
Citizenship: United States of America

Name: (first, middle, last): Jasper Jackson
Post Office Address: 38321 Amaryllis Place, Newark, CA 94560
Residence: Newark, CA 94560
Citizenship: United States of America

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that all statements made herein were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

_____ Michael Zung	_____ Date	_____ Jasper Jackson	_____ Date
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